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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/619,716	07/15/2003	Kumiko Ohmori	44471-287603	7759
23370	7590	06/01/2006	EXAMINER AZAD, ABUL K	
JOHN S. PRATT, ESQ KILPATRICK STOCKTON, LLP 1100 PEACHTREE STREET ATLANTA, GA 30309			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/619,716

Applicant(s)

OHMORI ET AL.

Examiner

ABUL K. AZAD

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2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17, 20-36 and 39 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 18, 19, 37, 38 and 40-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the communication filed on March 09, 2006.
2. Claims 1-42 are pending in this action.
3. The applicant's arguments with respect to claims 18, 19, 37, 38, and 40-42 have been fully considered but they are not deemed to be persuasive. For examiner's response to the applicant's arguments or comments, see the detailed discussion in the Response to the Arguments section.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 18, 19, 37, 38, 40, 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Papineni et al. (US 6,246,981).

As per claim 18, Papineni teaches, "a method of speech recognition based interactive information retrieval for ascertaining and retrieving a target information of a user by determining a retrieval key entered by the user using a speech recognition processing", comprising the steps of:

“storing retrieval key candidates that are classified according to attribute values of an attribute item in a speech recognition database” (Fig. 1, elements 40, 50 and 60);

“requesting the user by a speech dialogue with the user to enter a speech input indicating an attribute value of the attribute item for the retrieval key and carrying out the speech recognition processing for the speech input to obtain a recognition result indicating attribute value candidates and their recognition likelihoods” (col. 8, lines 19-67);

“selecting those attribute value candidates which have recognition likelihoods that are exceeding a prescribed likelihood threshold as attribute value leading candidates, and extracting those retrieval key candidates that belong to the attribute value leading candidates as new recognition target data” (col. 8, lines 19-67);

“requesting the user by a speech dialogue with the user to enter another speech input indicating the retrieval key and carrying out the speech recognition processing for the another speech input with respect to the new recognition target data to obtain another recognition result” (col. 8, lines 19-67); and

“carrying out a confirmation process using a speech dialogue with the user according to the another recognition result to determine the retrieval key” (Fig. 4).

As per claim 19, Papineni teaches, “wherein the attribute item is selected to be an attribute having attribute value candidates that constitute a number of data that can be processed by the speech recognition processing in a prescribed processing time” (Fig. 5, And Appendix B).

As per claims 37, 38, 40, 41 and 42, they are interpreted and thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 18 and 19.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-17, 20-36 and 39 are allowed over the prior art of record.

Response to Arguments

7. The applicant argues, "Papineni fails to teach narrowing down the retrieval key candidates first to the ones corresponding to the attribute value leading candidates and then carrying out a confirmation process for determining the retrieval key from the retrieval key candidates, as required by Claim 18. Accordingly, Claim 18 is not anticipated by Papineni and should be allowed".

The examiner disagrees with the applicant's above assertion because Papineni teaches at Fig. 2, element 100 "input attribute value" correspond to retrieval key as element 120, "domain-independent event/ request" and then carrying out confirmation process for determining the retrieval key from the retrieval key as element 140, "handle pending confirmation".

8. The applicant further argues, "the cited section of Papineni describes a list of (attribute, value) pairs, but does not describe the division of target words or priority of target words as recited by claims 40 and 41".

The examiner disagrees with applicant's argument because Papineni teaches the division of target words or priority of target words, for example see col. 8, lines 27-45, particularly reads on, "then this labels in turn are grouped to form higher-level (as

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priority word) constituents which are again labeled. There is only one higher-level constituent in the example with the label "BUY".

Conclusion

9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Abul K. Azad** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-7599**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Richemond Dorvil**, can be reached at **(571) 272-7602**.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Or faxed to: **(571) 273-8300**.

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to **401 Dulany Street, Alexandria, VA-22314** (Customer Service Window).

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

May 27, 2006



Abul K. Azad
Primary Examiner
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